

NAUVOO HISTORIC DISTRICT

Nauvoo and its environs

From 1839 to 1846, Nauvoo (from a Hebrew word meaning beautiful place) was home to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, or Mormons. At a time when prairie towns were typically ramshackle frame affairs, Nauvoo then the largest urban center in Illinois, boasted fine masonry structures built under church auspices. Joseph Smith, church leader, was murdered in nearby Carthage in 1844, and in 1846 the Mormons left on their westward trek. Many of their buildings remain and are now museums.